

APPLICATION OF A NEW METHOD IN COMPILATION OF A SETTLEMENT MONOGRAPH

BRIGITTA ZSÓTÉR

University of Szeged, Faculty of Agriculture
Institution of Economy and Regional Development
6800 Hódmezővásárhely, Andrásy út 15
zsoter@mgk.u-szeged.hu

This study is aiming to describe the methodological background of the future work „Monograph of Mezőhegyes”. During my research work I studied a great number of literature. I examined that in each monograph how the writers pay attention to the connection among the four spheres (social-, economical-, infrastructural-, and natural spheres), what methods they use, what their sources were, how their work is built up, and finally, how my monograph will fit into the other monographs. In the study we can see that there are settlement monographs that emphasises the ethnographical elements. Monographs of Vereb (FÖLDES 1937) and Rákospalota (SZABÓ-STRAUCH 1927) are like this. Certain volumes of the series „Monograph of Hungarian Towns”- Szeged (KISS-TONELLI-SZIGETHY 1927), Nagykanizsa (BARBARITS 1929, Makó (LADÁNYI 1929) and Baja (RAPCSÁNYI 1934)- have a similar structure. Description of the natural-, social-, economical-, and infrastructural spheres can be found in them but they do not explore, analyse the causal relations. These works are of descriptive nature, „actually, it is a data base for the future, a source for a forthcoming historian” (LADÁNYI 1929:7). We can mean by this for example, the name lists by trades in the social part. The significant turning-point, which was considered at the time of compilation of certain volumes, was the World War I. It has important role in the monograph of Makó (LADÁNYI 1929). RAPCSÁNYI regarded the political and military events as guiding principles in the monograph of Baja. He strived to compile a „historical document” (RAPCSÁNYI 1934:4). The close connection between the natural and social spheres were taken into consideration by BOGNÁR in „Settlement geography of Pápa” (BOGNÁR 1943) and by TÓTH in „Mezőberény, the town that seeks its place” (TÓTH 1980). BOGNÁR already used the expression „cultural region” in 1943.

The new monograph of Mezőhegyes will fit into the mentioned works in its structure but it will differ in its method. I am describing its planned structure, as follows. It will begin with a historical outline. The first historical period will describe the events from the foundation of Mezőhegyes to Trianon, the second one will study the period between the two world wars, and the third one will cover the events from the second world war to the change of the political system. The main part of the monograph will treat the data from the big political change to 2006. It will be followed by suggestions regarding the future, and finally, I will examine the changes in areal connections of Mezőhegyes. It is similar to the other settlement monographs so far. What will the difference be? I will study each stage with the help of the tetrahedron-model (TÓTH 1997), examining that how a change in any sphere will alter the other three ones. Consequently, it will not be a work of descriptive nature but it will show the system of connections among the spheres. In the period between the change of the political system and 2006 each sphere will be examined in details, analysing census data and other KSH data, as well.